

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of testing the integrity of primers in a multiplex amplification reaction, the amplification reaction comprising primers sufficient to amplify at least two different target sequences, the method comprising,
providing in a mixture the primers sufficient to amplify at least three two different target sequences and a single-stranded polynucleotide sequence comprising the sequences of each of the primers sufficient to amplify at least two different target sequences, subsequences of the primers at least five nucleotides long, or complements of the sequences of the primers;
amplifying the polynucleotide sequence; and
detecting the presence or absence of the amplified polynucleotide, thereby testing the integrity of the primers in the amplification reaction
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the target sequences are less than 50% identical to each other.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence is provided by denaturing a double-stranded polynucleotide.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence is a synthetic single-stranded polynucleotide.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence comprises the primer sequences.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence comprises two or more subsequences of the primers at least five

nucleotides long, wherein the two or more subsequences are not contiguous in the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence comprises all subsequences of the primers that are nine nucleotides long, wherein the subsequences are not contiguous in the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the single-stranded polynucleotide comprises at least two subsequences of each primer, wherein the combination of the at least two subsequences contain every nucleotide of the primer sequence, wherein the two or more subsequences are not contiguous in the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence comprises two subsequences of a primer sequence, wherein the two or more subsequences are not contiguous in the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence, and at least the last two nucleotides of a first subsequence are identical to the first at least two nucleotides of a second subsequence.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein at least the last five nucleotides of the first subsequence are identical to at least the first five nucleotides of the second subsequence.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mixture comprises at least a first, second, and third primer and the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence comprises the sequences of the at least first, second and third primer or subsequences at least five nucleotides long of the at least first, second and third primers.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the amplification of the target sequences is performed in the same reaction as the amplification of the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mixture comprises a first primer pair and the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence comprises sequences, or complement thereof, of primers of the first primer pair oriented such that the first primer pair is capable of amplifying the remaining primer sequences, or subsequences thereof, in the single-stranded polynucleotide.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the mixture comprises at least a second primer pair comprising a forward and a reverse primer, wherein the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence comprises sequences or subsequences of the first primer pair and the second primer pair.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence comprises subsequences of the primers at least five nucleotides long, wherein the subsequences are not contiguous in the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence comprises all subsequences of the primers that are nine nucleotides long, wherein the subsequences are not contiguous in the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence.

18-32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the single-stranded polynucleotide sequence comprises sequences or subsequences of the second primer pair oriented such that the reverse primer sequence of the second primer pair or subsequence thereof is closer to the 5' end of the polynucleotide sequence than the forward primer sequence of the second primer pair, or subsequence thereof.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the single-stranded polynucleotide comprises the sequences of each primer of the first primer pair and the second primer pair.